

HITCHIN TROUNCE WYCOMBE

A VASTLY superior Hitchin side trounced Wycombe Wanderers much more convincingly than the 4-0 score suggests when they met in the area semi-final of the East Anglian Cup competition on Wednesday.

Wycombe, without big John Fisher, were never in the hunt. From the first minute, when Hitchin centre-forward Randall went through, only to miss an open goal, it was obvious that Wycombe were not in the best of form.

Hitchin made all the chances, with Wycombe defending gallantly and sometimes desperately. Ivor Ashby, playing at centre-half in place of Fisher, had a harrying time against live-wire centre-forward Randall, who snapped up a superb hat-trick.

But for some magnificent saves by goalkeeper Ken Brown, and some fantastic misses, Hitchin might have run up a cricket score.

Along with Brown, Gale and Beck both performed well. But the forwards never really got going.

Martin Priestley had his first senior game in the unaccustomed position of centre-forward. What he lacked in skill, he almost made up in enthusiasm. But his colleagues were all subdued by a hard-tackling Hitchin defence.